

Marilla  
Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Date: March 7, 2006**

**Members Present:** Ralph Burch – Co-chairman  
Dave Muench  
Bud Pearce  
Roger Gustavel  
James Heinrich  
Warren Cullen, Sr.

**Members Absent:** Leonard Janiga

**Also in attendance:** Councilman Fred Specht

Meeting commences @ 6:32PM

Co-chairman Ralph Burch will run the meeting in Leonard's absence. Ralph asks for approval of last months meeting minutes as amended. Jim Heinrich moves to accept minutes of February, Warren Cullen 2nds the motion. All members say aye.

Ralph questions discussion from last month's meetings regarding the Pace Grant application that was allegedly lost in the mail. Councilman Specht verified that it was found in Vermont rather than Albany. Therefore it was received too late and must be re-applied for in July or August. He will keep us posted when that will be. Ralph asked if anyone had the opportunity to review the CAB's copy of the Grant application. Roger said that he looked it over to see familiarize himself with it. He thought it was very thorough and only remarked about the difference in price per acre of \$2,200/acre versus the \$1800/acre paid to previous purchases. Councilman Specht said that was the rate for this year.

Ralph asked for word on Roger's appointment to the CAB. It was confirmed that the Town Board approved Roger for the vacant CAB position at last months Town Board meeting.

Ralph then asked Roger if he would consider the clerk's position for the CAB. Roger agreed that he would with stipulation of obtaining a voice recorder for the meetings so that he would be able to participate more in discussions without concentrating on notes for the minutes. Ralph added that he agreed and would like to see a type of digital recorder purchased so that the meeting discussions could be sent electronically to members that may have missed the meeting.

Jim nominates Roger for the position of CAB clerk. Dave Muench seconds the motion and all members present approve. Roger assumes the clerk's duties.

Ralph stated that Leonard wanted us to know that his PACE grant, along with the Wiggler grant have still to close.

Ralph asked for any updates on the Berner property at Clinton Street, as it had been seen to be for sale. Fred told that Leon Berner came to the Town Board work session asking about a driveway on Two Rod Rd. on the Marilla side of the border to access some property on the Alden side of the border. He told that the Golf course project was dead and that he is selling portions off. Fred told of his disappointment at this decision as he feels the golf course would have been more beneficial to the town. He stated that it would have brought more tax dollars and that now there are reportedly 12 deeded properties available to be split. This will allow 24 new home sites immediately along with potential flag lots in the future in the agriculturally zoned portion. He also states that the portion zoned RR would be open to a possible subdivision.

Ralph asked Fred if there might be any revisions of the codes to seek better regulation of the subdivision of this land. These subdivisions of land drastically affect our goal of preserving green space and questioned if the CAB will see any of these changes if drafted.

Ralph brought up the question again about the possibility of requiring permits for driveways. He said that this might protect the land owner as well as the town. Some other towns do require permits for driveways and times have changed enough that the farmers are not often cutting in driveways to access their fields as they once did.

As for the Rohl property on Clinton and Two Rod Road, the question was raised if 39 acres zoned B1 is really necessary. Ralph stated that this is half the size of Southgate Plaza in West Seneca. Fred tells that he moved into Marilla in 1962 when the population was at 2000. The town has now grown to 6000 and it will continue to grow. The town board's responsibility is to look toward the future and best plan for that growth. Jim asked if this area is not the best place for the commercial growth to take place.

Ralph stated that Leonard Janiga had mentioned the possibility of drainage problems on the Rohl property and suggested that the Soil & Water Conservation department may need to be involved. Jim & Roger both remarked about the condition of the property having lived near it for much of their lives. Both also participated in farming activities on the property and felt drainage was certainly an issue and will have to be dealt with. They feel that a large paved parking lot will only add to the problems.

Councilman Specht was asked if he had any other business to address. He stated that the question of the CAB's compensation in the Town Code book brought up at last month's meeting has been revised. It will now state that the CAB will receive compensation for services.

Jim asked Fred if anything has been determined regarding wind turbines yet. Fred said that there will be zoning upgrades to deal with them in the future.

Roger asked the other members if an email reminder of upcoming meetings was sufficient. All agreed it was sufficient.

Warren motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bud Pearce seconded the motion. All agreed and meeting ended at 7:20PM

Submitted by Roger Gustavel, CAB Member.